



**Student support appeal to accommodation providers during 2021 National Lockdown**

**3 February 2021**

To whom it may concern,

We hope this letter finds you well and that you are staying safe in these uncertain times.

As we find ourselves in a third lockdown with the majority of students requested by government to stay where they are and study remotely, you will be aware that there are many who are unable to make use of their term-time accommodation.

This is causing additional financial and mental health pressures on students in what has been a continued difficult time for them. As such, the University of Plymouth and Plymouth College of Art have launched enhanced hardship funds to help students with issues including rent and other matters. The University of Plymouth is offering a 50% discount on its university-managed accommodation for a determined period of time, whilst Plymouth College of Art does not own or manage any student accommodation and therefore cannot offer rent rebates. We are also pleased that the government has announced further hardship support today.

Please may we ask you as a private accommodation provider to consider any specific student difficulties on a case-by-case basis in terms of those renting from you who cannot currently be in residence because of the lockdown.

We appreciate fully that this would be a significant gesture, and one entirely dependent on your own financial situation.

Any act of support would make an enormous difference to some of our students. While maintenance loans will be paid by government for the Spring term this may not be enough to cover rent. Many students are not eligible for the maximum loan and rely on their parents and/or part-time work to cover their rents. Many students are experiencing hardship from loss of part time jobs or other income.

Our students make a huge contribution to the city and we all eagerly anticipate their return.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this letter.

Yours,

**Professor Judith Petts CBE, Vice-Chancellor, University of Plymouth**

**Professor Andrew Brewerton, Principal, Plymouth College of Art**